



Defense Security Cooperation Agency  
**NEWS RELEASE**

On the web: <http://www.dsca.osd.mil>

Media/Public Contact: USA(703) 601-3670  
Austria (43-1)31339-2066

---

Date: 18 January 2002

## **US Air Force General to Deliver Proposal for Fighters to Austria: Will Brief Press in Vienna**

(Washington, DC) Lieutenant General Tome Walters, the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, will head a delegation to Austria to present the U.S. Government's proposal for the F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter to replace Austria's aging JAS-35 Drakken fighters. Following presentation of the US proposal, General Walters will field questions from the Press at 11 AM at Amerika Haus in Vienna.

The Austrian Air Force (AAF) currently operates SAAB JAS-35 Draken and SAAB-105 aircraft. These aircraft have served Austria well, but due to their age, are expensive to operate and maintain. The Austrian Government has asked for proposals for more modern fighters.

The US Government is pleased to offer the combat tested F-16 Falcon. The F-16 is a proven air superiority and ground attack aircraft that has been proven in four combat operations in the last 11 years. The F-16 today is fielded around the world by 19 Air Forces world-wide. In Europe alone, the Air Forces of the United States, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway and Denmark fly over 1,000 F-16s. In addition to global deployments of the F-16 with the US Air Force, it also flies daily homeland security combat air patrol missions in the United States.

The broad range of countries flying the F-16 makes it the perfect aircraft for Austria to defend her airspace. No other modern fighter aircraft has the volume of operation experience of the F-16. Austria's European Union partners produce the F-16 in Europe, manufacture parts for the F-16, and perform maintenance on the aircraft in Europe. Doctrine, maintenance, logistics and training procedures for the F-16 have been perfected not only by the United States, but also by Austria's European partners. No other aircraft offers the immense depth of practical knowledge – knowledge that can only be gained by operating an aircraft for a long period of time under a wide variety of conditions. Austria will benefit from the experience of some of the world's most experienced air forces.

Acquisition of the F-16 Falcon will make it easier for Austria to transition to the Joint Strike Fighter, the fighter aircraft of the future. Recent press reports have stated that the Netherlands, Italy, Australia, Norway, Canada and Denmark are considering joining Britain and the United States in developing this next-generation aircraft.

The American offer is well within the price guidelines proposed by the Austrian Government. General Walters will be available to field specific questions – subject to normal diplomatic caveats – at 11 AM at the Amerika Haus, Friedrich Schmidtplatz 2, 1010 Vienna.

